



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville
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News Release

Number: 02-16 **U. S. Munitions Clean-up Contract Awarded**
Date: October 9, 2002

Huntsville, Ala.— The United States Army Corps of Engineers, Huntsville Center, announced today that an Alaska Native corporation, *Bering Sea Eccotech, Inc. (BSE)*, has been awarded the initial tasking of a munitions response contract potentially worth \$ 900,000 during the next three years.

Once *BSE* is near full capacity of their base year, a second contract may be potentially awarded to *ADVENT Environmental, Inc.*, a Native American-owned firm based in Charleston, S.C., to perform similar work based on additional requirements received. With estimated values of \$300,000 for the base year and \$300,000 annually for two optional years, both contracts could have a combined total of \$1.8M over the next 3 years.

BSE will begin work as the prime contractor in October 2002. The company will begin a feasibility assessment for a centralized range target and unexploded ordnance (UXO) scrap recycling facility on tribal lands.

“It’s a great opportunity for us, as an Alaska Native corporation and as a major stakeholder, to clean up our lands for future economic development,” said Elary Gromoff, Jr., Executive Vice President of *BSE*.

Mark Sellers, *ADVENT*’s President, said his firm was pleased to participate in the initiative. “It is wonderful that the Corps of Engineers recognizes the sensitivities of working on our Tribal lands,” he said. “The Huntsville Center staff has truly followed through on their commitment to support emerging businesses on these important projects.”

According to Dan Coberly, Director of Public Affairs for the Huntsville Center, the contract is an example of Huntsville Center’s innovative engineering solutions. “Removal of unexploded ordnance from former defense sites throughout the United States is an important environmental concern and it is also one that will enhance the safety of our citizens,” Coberly said. “It’s also a fine example of how the Army Corps of Engineers, Alaskan Natives, and Native Americans are working together to improve the environment.”

“This is a unique opportunity for American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) corporations to be prime contractors for such a broad UXO clean-up initiative,” said Glenn Earhart, Ordnance and Explosives Program Manager, Huntsville Center. “The U.S. Government and AI/AN contractors have formed a partnership to help clean-up military ranges for training. This award represents not only a way to improve our environment but opens a whole new technological area for AI/AN involvement,

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resulting in a great business and economic opportunity for the entire AI/AN community, ” Earhart said.

For further information visit the following websites or contact:

Huntsville Center, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers www.hnd.usace.army.mil

For general information about the US Army Corps of Engineers visit: www.usace.army.mil

See Q's and A's at: <http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil/pao/nwsrls/uxomediakit.htm>

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